The weighted average production cost of urea at present in the country is higher than the prevailing international rice. This is primarily on account of higher cost of feed stock/raw materials in India.

Import of Fertilizers

†1352. SHRI KAPILSIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizers have been imported during the past few years, to meet their requirement in the country;

(b) if so, which fertilizers were imported during 1998-99,1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and their quantity imported; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy paid by Government on these fertilizer imports during each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Urea is the only controlled fertilizer whose imports are made on Government account, to bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availability. The import of decontrolled fertilizers such as DAP and MOP is governed by the market forces operating within the parameters of the Concession Scheme. The details of imports of major fertilizers made during 1998-99, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 are as under:

(in lakh MT)

YEAR	UREA	DAP	MOP
1998-1999	5.56	21.05	25.70
1999-2000	5.33	32.68	28.98
2000-2001	Nil	8.60	25.68

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) The details of total amount of subsidy on urea and concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers on imports during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 incurred by the Government are as under-

Period	Subsidy paid on Urea	Concession paid on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers	Total
1998-1999	124.22	881.62	1005.84
1999-2000	74.07	1463.52	1537.59
2000-2001	0.98	1079.00	1079.98

Grouping of Naphtha-based fertilizer plants

1353. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 27 to 51 per cent of the total energy in Naphtha based fertilizer plants comes from sources other than Naphtha;

(b) if so, whether Naphtha-based plants are proposed to be grouped in two groups *viz.* plants based on vintage technology of pre-RPS era and plants based on post-RPS era in group pricing scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the proposed grouping of Naphtha-based units and the expected benefits to the fertilizer industry and the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Expenditure Reforms Commission has in its report entitled 'Rationalizing Fertilizer Subsidies' recommended *inter-alia* introduction of Group Concession Scheme after dividing existing urea units on the basis of feed stock and vintage. For naphtha based units, ERC has recommended only one group. Recommendations of ERC are under examination with a view a formulation of new pricing policy for urea units which will include Government's decision on number of groups to be made for determination of rates of concession.

Committee to review Drug price control

1354. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee had been set up to review drug price control;